THE

HORTICULTURAL REGISTER

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ON THE CHOICE AND CULTIVATION OF THE MELON.

This delicious and refreshing fruit well deserves the care and attention of the gardener, and as, in favorable seasons it will arrive at a maturity here in the open air, the application of a small portion of the horticultural skill and labor which are so freely lavished on it in Europe, would undoubtedly enable him to excel in its production, as well as to render it a certain and unfailing crop.

For this purpose an account of the natural habits and wants of the melon tribe is requisite, that the actual advantages of the climate may be drawn forth and improved, or its deficiencies be supplied in as great a degree as the ingenuity of man is able.

Cucumis melo, the melon, is supposed to be a native of Asia but has been so long known in most southern countries that its origin is somewhat involved in uncertainty, it was cultivated in England as early as 1570, and was it is supposed introduced from the West Indies, being known by the general appellation of *musk melon* until the middle of the last century; from that time the improvements of horticulture have caused new distinctions of name and variety, so that at the present time nearly 150 different sorts have been tried and described.

It is a tender annual plant, trailing on the ground, of the Monœcious tribe of Linnæus, that is, with two distinct flowers, one of which only bears fruit, the other is barren, it is necessary however that the pollen or powder of this latter should come into contact with the pistil of the fertile flower in order to produce a crop; this is usually effected by bees and other insects, but when grown altogether under glass as in Europe, the operation is often per-

formed by hand. It requires considerable heat to come to perfection, 65 degrees is about the lowest in which it will grow at all, but 80 or 90 degrees is a necessary temperature for the fruit to ripen in perfection. The melon is a very succulent plant and prefers a damp warm situation when in full growth. Such is its partiality for water, that, it is recorded in one of the late publications either in England or France, a plant sent little fibrils of the roots through a brick wall into an adjoining water cistern lined with Roman cement, the consequence was that it surpassed all its neighbors in luxuriance and productiveness; when the season is advanced however and fruit is ripening water is not so necessary; the melons grown on the floating garden in South America and other parts of the world are said to excel.

Good seed is of the first importance, and most gardeners are very nice on this point; some will only take from the first ripe fruit, and even then only from the ripest side; such as float when thrown into water are generally rejected as imperfect, those which sink are chosen as most fertile. The seed ought to be two or three years old, even four or five is not too old; after twenty years it has been known to germinate and produce good fruit; many gardeners keep their melon seeds in the pocket, so as to receive the constant heat of the body for several months previous to sowing, and Nicol observes that without this precaution, or something similar the plants will not be fruitful, but will run too much to vine, and shew chiefly barren blossoms.—The truth on this subject appears to be that the cotyledons of the seed require their juices to be more ripened and concentrated than can well be done in the moist interior of the fruit where the climate is such as to render artificial heat necessary, and where the melon is eaten as soon as the flavor is considered good, without reference to the proper ripeness of the seed, which probably only takes place after the fruit is overripe and the flavor gone. It is better to cultivate the various sorts of melons and gourds at some considerable distance from each other, as the insects are apt to mix the pollen, and the true varieties are lost by becoming hybridised.

Mr Knight thinks, with justice, that the seed of all the more delicate and fine flavored melons degenerates in a cold climate, for it is certain that every large and excellent variety must have resulted from high and warm culture, and abundance of rich food continued for many seasons; these combined advantages, particularly the constant heat and light of the sun, cannot be obtained in England so as to produce sufficient breadth of luxuriant foliage properly to nourish a fruit of large size and rich saccharine juice in its highest perfection. In

this country however this deficiency is supplied, and if proper care and attention is paid to the cultivation, so as to have plants on the melon ground early, and then well protected and kept warm until the latter end of June there can be no difficulty either with respect to the fruit or seed.

According to the best authorities the melon prefers a rich, unexhausted, slightly sandy loam, with plenty of manure, not too rank or fresh. Sheep manure has been from time immemorial used in Persia in cultivating this fruit.

The best method for this climate we apprehend would be to sow seed in pots say five in a pot and bring them forward early in the green house; in the beginning of June make a small pot bed of fresh manure, lay over this 2 or 3 inches of decayed leaves, then cover six inches deep with proper compost, put on a small glazed frame, and when the rank heat has a little subsided, turn out the pot without breaking the ball of earth into the centre of the bed, water freely with *lukewarm* water, and shut up the frame; if cold nights come on mats must be laid on the glass, and linings of fresh warm dung applied all round the bed; on hot days give plenty of air in the mornings, — this is very essential, but close the frame early in the evening. In July or when the hot weather really sets in, the frames may be taken off and the plants left to run over the ground, the original manure of the hot bed will then have become a rich soil for the roots, and as before mentioned they should be plentifully supplied with water while in full growth — rain water is much to be preferred.

If no fruit shews, after the vines are four or five joints in length, pinch off the tops, and the laterals will then probably become fruitful; when a fruit is well set and swelling also pinch off at two joints above it; do not move the leaves about much, plants of which leaves are injured do not thrive so well. When the melon is about the size of an apple lay a piece of slate underneath to protect it from the damp of the earth; this is particularly requisite with the Persian and other thin and tender skinned melons — it also assists in ripening.

The melon is generally considered ripe when the skin cracks in a circle round the base of the foot stalk where it joins the fruit; the odor is also a good criterion on this point.

One of the most difficult parts of the cultivation is to protect the young plant from insects and disease, against the squash bug. I know of no better remedy than the common one of lime and soot strewed over them; sulphur is a remedy for the red spider, but if the

plants are well grown and vigorous the mildew and insects will rarely touch them.

The varieties most generally esteemed are

1st. The Cantaloups, so called from a country seat of the Pope near Rome where the variety is supposed to have been originally produced.

2d. The Romanas originating in Italy.

3d. The Persian melon.

The general character of the Cantaloup is of a roundish form, with netted, or large rough, warty and thick skin, the leaves not very large. Of the netted sort, the best are

The Beechwood Melon, an excellent, early, greenish yellow kind, flesh greenish white, middle size.

Melon des Carmes, a well flavored large fruit with a thick orange rind, and juicy sugary pulp.

Melon of Langeais, a middle sized, ribbed fruit, with orange colored, sugary, sweet scented flesh.

Sugary Melon of Tours, fruit large, with firm, sugary, orange colored flesh.

Of the deep furrowed, rough, warty, thick rind Cantaloups, the following are the best.

Montagu Cantaloup, a variety from the Italian green fleshed, and the smooth scarlet fleshed Cantaloup, middle size, early, thick yellow rind, pale red flesh, which is soft and juicy, and completely melting in the mouth.

White seeded Cantaloup, a very juicy highly flavored fruit, small, thin, rather netted yellow rind.

Orange Cantaloup, a small, round, pale, yellow fruit, rather netted. The flesh when first fit for cutting is orange, but when riper is more red; in flavor it is excelled by none of the melon tribe, being juicy, sugary, and rich. It is a free grower, an early setter and a great bearer.

Scarlet fleshed Cantaloup, a middle sized early fruit, with a thick yellow rind and red sweet flesh particularly high flavored.

Italian green fleshed, a middle sized early fruit, thick yellow rind, green flesh, rich and sweet in flavor.

Ionian green fleshed, a large thin skin, lemon colored, and lemon scented; excellent flavor but a shy bearer.

Masulipatam green fleshed, a small, excellent, early sort, skin and flesh green.

Golden Rock, a middle size fruit, thick yellow rind, pale red flesh, excellent flavor.

Silver Rock, nearly the same, but later.

Petit Prescott, fruit depressed, crowned at top, ribs warted, flesh delicious.

Carthagena, a large, high flavored fruit, with a thick orange colored rind, pale red flesh.

Early Polignac, an early, rich, medium sized fruit, with a thick yellow rind, pale flesh, commonly cultivated.

Romanas.

Lee's Romana, a medium sized, longish, shallow furrowed fruit, rind hard, pale yellow, flesh yellow, not very juicy but very high flavored if eaten *sharp* ripe.

Large netted Romana, the largest of the Romanas, regularly netted all over, furrows shallow, rind hard, pale yellow, flesh full yellow, flavor like the last.

Fair's Romana, a small oval fruit, rind greenish yellow, flesh pale yellow, not very juicy, but fine and agreeable flavor.

The third variety of Persian melons, is called by Decandolle, var. *Maltensis*, and is subdivided into *Maltese and Persian.*

The white fleshed Malta Melon, is an early middle sized oval fruit, with sugary juicy flesh, rather watery.

Yellow Malta, flesh orange colored, sweet scented.

Candia melon or Maltese Winter Melon. This is extensively cultivated on the Mediterranean coast, particularly in the orange gardens at Hieres near Toulon, from whence the fruit is sent to Paris; of late years it has been regularly imported into England. The shape is oval, about a foot long and 6 to 8 inches broad, color dark green, rind thin, flesh white, sugary and juicy, rather firm, not rich but pleasant and grateful.

Persian Melons.

Daree, a good sized, late fruit, skin green, thin, flesh white, high flavored.

Dampsha Melon, an excellent large fruit, nearly cylindrical, netted, rind thin, and yellow when ripe, flesh green, quite melting, delicious flavor; this fruit will keep for some time if hung up by the stalk. Rather late.

Large Germek, an excellent, early, green skinned sort, of considerable size, flesh green.

Green Hoosainee, a middle sized, late, good quality, yellow rind, thin green, flesh white.

Striped Hoosainee, a very good late sort, with greenish yellow rind and white flesh. This fruit was we think, shewn at the late exhibition of the Mass. Horticultural Society, by M. P. Wilder, Esq., of Dorchester, who raised it from seed sent over by the London Hort. Society.

Keiseng, this is said to be one of the best Persian Melons; the skin is thin, pale yellow and red, flesh white.

Sweet melon of Ispahan, this is reported as the best of melons, size large, skin yellow, flesh green, crisp, sugary, and very rich in flavor.

Melon of Nukshevan, an excellent late kind, skin yellow, pulp white.

Salonica, fruit round, rind gold colored, flesh white; it is very sweet, and improves in richness and flavor until the pulp becomes soft and of the consistence of a water melon.

The water melon is a variety of *Cucumis citrullus* — it is, as well known here, large green, red in the centre, juicy and refreshing, but not high flavored. In Egypt large quantities of them are consumed both as food, and as medicine in high fevers; for this latter purpose they wait until the fruit is overripe and nearly putrid, then mix the juice with rose water and sugar. This is generally considered to be the melon of the ancient Jews which is mentioned in the Bible.

In the cultivation of it, of course the same treatment is necessary as with the other species.

The melon is a water loving plant, and therefore I think a fair experiment might be made of planting it on some of the uncultivated swamps, throwing in first a few spadefuls of manure where planted, and laying the fruit, as soon as formed, on the small rocks which generally rise above the surface of the swamp. J. E. T.

Our valued correspondent, Mr Jos. Breck, has sent two Citron Melons, the cultivation of which is the same as the common water melon, with the following recipe, which he says makes citron equal to any imported from the Mediterranean.

FOR PRESERVING AMERICAN CITRON.

Pare the dark green from the outside and scrape the soft from the inside of the melon, cut it into different forms, boil it in alum water till clear; then throw it into spring water, where it may remain two

or three hours, changing the water frequently. To one pound of fruit put two pounds of sugar, make a syrup of half the sugar and boil in it the citron, until done, when it will be transparent. At the expiration of two or three days take the jelly from it, add the remaining half of the sugar, boil and pour over the citron, which will then be ready for use — season with ginger — sliced lemon is preferable.

[For the Horticultural Register.]

HORTICULTURAL PURSUITS.

That a general and devoted attention to the cultivation of flowers and ornamental trees, can be expected from a population deeply and extensively engaged in commercial and manufacturing pursuits, is a matter of doubt — but that such an attention, if it could be excited and sustained, would be a great and powerful means of improving the moral condition of a people, admits of no question in the liberal and intelligent mind; it is a matter of historical fact, that those nations which have been most distinguished for their love of husbandry whether of the garden or of the field, have been the most prosperous in their undertakings, and the most enviable in their moral condition, and why? Because the human mind is modified and moulded according to the good or bad influence, that the avocations to which its attention is given, exert upon it. If the sight of a beautiful landscape, upon which the fading vision of sickness and disease rests, can give the thoughts a purer and higher direction, and touch the heart with the hues of its own quiet beauty — why should not the feelings of him, whose hand corrects nature's imperfections, and gives to the scene its finished and perfected appearance, be led along in the midst of his labors, in the same moral and devotional current?

Surely, in planting the tree and setting the hedge, the individual of good and subjected feelings looks beyond the mere *profit* of his labors and rejects the insinuation, that his every act is an act of cold calculating indemnity for toil and attention. The recompense of a good mind is found in the moral tendency of its employments and in the belief that its labors are for the benefit, instruction and welfare of those who shall have come upon the stage of existence and have entered upon the routine of active life, when their predecessors sleep in the green and populous field of the dead, and where (if these sentiments are correct) can a surer and a better recompense be had than in the cultivation of the earth? Is there any thing in the wide world

which can more thoroughly soften the harsher traits in our nature and give birth to a more enduring satisfaction, than the knowledge, that while we are effecting much for the comfort and pleasure of others, we are enriching our own minds with the sound, moral feelings such pursuits naturally inculcate?

In speaking of a rural life, Washington observes, that "he could no where find so great satisfaction, as in those innocent and useful pursuits;" and thissentiment, when we consider its justness and the character of the man who uttered it, deserves to be treasured up. But it is not the moral features of this avocation alone which recommend it to our attention, the outward effects of a general regard for ornamental husbandry appeal to national pride, and it is this, which has established for Great Britain a reputation for beauty of home scenery, which scarcely any other nation can lay claim to; her rich fields spreading almost into one continued garden, and shaded with oaks whose plantation is almost beyond the remembrance of man; her homesteads, beautified with every plant and with every flower which can endure her climate, all are matters of national pride, and would lead even the foreigner with all his antipathies and prejudices to exclaim, as he looks upon the palaces of peace and of plenty,

"How beautiful they stand,
Amid their tall ancestral trees
O'er all the pleasant land."

If we would be known among the great of the earth as a nation not only secure in its riches and its natural resources, but in its moral strength, we must cherish a love for the first and the best employment given to man by his maker. Let us all in our leisure moments, do something to embellish the patrimony which has fallen to our lot, something to be pointed out as of our doing when we ourselves shall be gathered to our fathers. The tree of our planting will be growing when we are sleeping, and its broad shade in years to come will perhaps shelter our memories from the rude assaults of time. There is no good reason why the rough soil of New England should not be chronicled as the rich home of rural arts upon the pages of the traveller, as well as the countries of the old world. A devoted attention to ornamental husbandry for a few days in each year, would make even the humble cottage a home of loveliness and beauty; it would build up for us a reputation, which our posterity will be proud of, and generate a moral influence which our posterity will feel, and in their turn transmit to their descendants. F. R. G.

Concord, Ms., Sept. 26, 1835.

ON HORTICULTURAL ARCHITECTURE.

We resume this subject for the purpose of giving a few principles to serve as guides for laying out either large or small plots of ground, so as to make them embellishments to the dwelling house, and places of delicious enjoyment for the leisure hour.

The first objects of observation are the size, the surface, the situation of a spot, then the trees which are already in growth, and the aspect of the house; we hold that in this climate, a north and south aspect is preferable, particularly if windows can be had facing the west, so as to give an uninterrupted view of the glories of the setting sun — with us this would be indispensable.

In a country where extremes of temperature exist, north and south apartments are peculiarly grateful in moderating the rigor of either extreme, and this position protects in some measure against that Sirocco of the north, the East wind of Spring.

Suppose the area or garden space to be small, one great object would be to shut out by shrubbery the boundaries, so that the small extent might not appear, to fill every angle and corner with the Lilac or other large and spreading plant, and to take every advantage of the adjoining land. Thus imagine the neighboring piece to be grass; by means of a very open or of a sunk fence and a grass plat the grass on both lands would appear to combine and present an extensive expanse of green, or if wood adjoins, then by judicious transplantation an uninterrupted line of copse would be formed, on which the eye would rest with pleasure. The invisible fences commonly used in England, might here be of great service, they are made of thick iron wire, about four feet high, with thin iron posts at distances of eight or ten feet, painted black, so that they form no impediment to such combinations of prospect with contiguous properties. The same may be done where a rivulet or a piece of water exists near, observing always that such innocent appropriations of our neighbor's property is much better enjoyed when only caught at glimpses and between intervals of shrubbery; it is impossible, on this point, to throw out more than the idea, the execution of it must depend altogether on taste, situation and capacities; it is in fact nothing more than making the same use of a home or near view, that many do of an extensive prospect, that is, build an elevation to enjoy it in greater perfection and extent.

Having made the most of external advantages, let us consider the

outlay of the garden spot itself; here it is absolutely necessary for every one who has his piece of ground, to plant the peach, the vine, the apple and pear; the combination of the useful with the ornamental is unavoidable, let us therefore endeavor to make the useful as ornamental as possible; and in truth, besides the blossom, we know no tree or shrub more beautiful than a peach tree thickly studded with its rich dark crimsoned fruit, or the spreading apple bending under the weight of its smiling rosy cheeked clusters.

But instead of planting these trees in formal close orchard lines, we should dot them about apparently irregularly, but in reality with some plan, at sufficient distances to permit, when full grown, intervals of parterres of flowers, and under each tree we should spread a circular carpet of verdant grass, kept well mown, on which the ripe and bursting peach might fall uninjured, and the difiguring tread of the gatherer be unseen. The connexion of these circular grass plots by means of trellises of the vine, or variously formed beds of herbaceous and annual flowers, with here and there a screen of three or four thick shrubs, to conceal and protect from early blasts, a bijou or jewel of a recess set apart for small masses of choice flowers, which may suddenly and unexpectedly burst on the wanderer through the alleys — these and a variety of other schemes will afford exercise to the man of taste, and create interest in the visitor.

To these remarks for small plots of ground, we would add a few common place rules, such as, that straight lines particularly for short distances, unless terminating in bold curves, are not pleasing to the eye; narrow walks, unless winding at short intervals through woods, are by no means desirable. The division of a small piece of plain surface into fancy figures and forms, carries at first an appearance of symmetry and prettiness, but this symmetry is soon destroyed by tall growing herbaceous shrubs and plants, and the original idea and intention is lost, besides the taste is not correct nor is the charm of variety kept up, when the eye can embrace the whole extent and plan of a garden at one glimpse. In all gardens a rock work is a device which, if well erected has a good effec; tsuch a receptacle for plants in this climate, where the purity and clearness of the atmosphere vies with that prevalent in Alpine regions, it appears to us would succeed admirably. The class of plant proper for the crevices in such an erection, are those whose small size yet elegance of foliage or floral form, have given them great interest with horticulturists, and whose habits of growth, particularly adapt them for covering and

ornamenting the barren projections of rocks with their profuse blossoms. To facilitate these plans, I have in this number given a list with a description of such plants as are suitable for this purpose, with hints on the form of such artificial rocks.

In grounds where natural ledges exist, the work is already done to our hands, and all that is required is the exercise of taste in disposing the groups and colors. An arbor or trellis covered with the vine, or with a variety of the clematis and climbing roses or other quick growing plants, is a good termination for a walk, which should branch off close round the trellis, to appear as if it led to a continuation elsewhere, at the back a few shrubs might conceal the boundary or fence.

Where larger spaces of ground are to be operated on ornamentally, the first point is to open before the principal front of the house, an extensive plot of well kept grass interrupted with clumps of forest trees at considerable distances from each other, so managed as to admit between the intervals, the most interesting points of the surrounding prospect, such as the spire of a meetinghouse, a distant mountain, or a piece of water, the boundaries or which might be purposely hidden by these clumps so that if the extent of water be small the terminations would not appear.

The approach to the house should be by a broad semi-circular drive intersecting the lawns, and leading by branches to the stables and out buildings, as well as to the flower and kitchen gardens; this last, if near the house, must be completely concealed, either by walls covered with fruit trees, or by shrubberies, and may be preferably laid out in a series of parallelograms.

The vicinity of Boston abounds so much in every variety of beautiful landscape, that there is scarcely any place where art is less required in laying out pleasure grounds; walks now winding through the small adjacent copse filled with wild flowers assembled from every location where they are found, *gradually* ascending an elevated spot where the beauty of the prospect bursts on the astonished eye, then leading into the cultivated flower garden, with its basins or ponds of water for aquatics, its rock work, the trellis covered with climbing roses leading to a rosarium, the parterres for collections of herbaceous perennials, the damp and protected spots for the rhododendron, azalea and other peat earth plants, the rustic moss house, and the collections of flowers in masses: after leaving this paradise of sweets, passing some distance through a thick plantation of the most orna-

mental forest trees of America, including the varieties of pine and fir, then suddenly emerging on the beautiful expanse of grass lawn in front; all this, owing to the natural advantages of the country surrounding Boston, may be accomplished at a comparatively trifling expense and loss of time.

In forming ascents to rising grounds, where prospects are to be enjoyed, there is some art required to make the attainment of the elevation easy; this is done by cutting low steps at considerable intervals, say ten or twenty feet, according to the nature of the ground; these should not be more than three or four inches high, and as wide as may be possible; a facing to these steps of round sticks with the bark remaining on, about two inches in diameter, driven down, or fastened by battens, is very appropriate. Such paths to eminences are preferable when they wind round and gradually reach the summit.

There is also some management necessary in working up such landscapes with an artist's eye, by opening vistas through plantations, concealing barns and out buildings or kitchen gardens by judicious management of clumps of trees, or permitting small glimpses of the flower garden by gaps in the shrubberies — an ornamental roof of a greenhouse partly concealed by foliage is an elegant object. Of course little else can be done than to give general ideas on these subjects, which must then be worked out according to the capabilities the place offers; the truth is, however, that it costs no more to lay out a place so as to combine and render conspicuous, all its natural advantages, than it does to arrange it so that they are all concealed, or at least thrown into the shade.

When it is required to intersect the lawn in front, this had better be done by a sunken avenue with grass banks, so that the extent of grass presented to the eye offers an unbroken surface.

Single trees of elegant forms and growth, on a plot of grass, are extremely ornamental — Such are the Tulip tree, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, Magnolia, *auriculata* and others, the Tupelo tree, *Nyssa*, the scarlet Oak, the Elm, particularly when of large growth, the weeping Ash, the purple Beech, the Moosewood, *acer striatum*, and the weeping Willow on the border of a pond has a good effect. J. E. T.

[To the Editors of the Horticultural Register.]

Columbia, S. C. Oct. 1, 1835

Gentlemen — I am much pleased with your publication, the "Horticultural Register." It is conducted with great skill and intelligence, and cannot fail being productive of much advantage, pleasure and knowledge to its subscribers. I was particularly pleased with the article in the 5th number, page 164, "On the common and botanical names of plants and flowers." This article, as all the others above the signature J. E. T., is so judicious and well tempered that it must have its due effect. Anything that will induce a gradual abandonment of the vulgar names of plants and the use of botanical ones, were it only partially so, must be highly useful. I beg your leave to throw in my mite in so good a cause, by relating one of many instances when the use of the common names of plants might have been attended with fatal consequences.—Some years since a young physician on a visit to an uncle of his in this place, was speaking to me on the advantages a knowledge of botany was to a physician, and he stated as one instance of it, his having lately made use of the root of the "Podophyllum peltatum" as a substitute, I believe, for jalap, that Dr. Barton had told him it possessed the same medical properties as that well known drug; and that it was the plant bearing the fruit called "May apple." Now the Podophyllum peltatum grows here, though it is somewhat scarce; but we have another plant which is much more abundant, and a very troublesome weed in our gardens and fields, the "Passiflora incarnata," which bears a fruit also called "May apple." Suspecting that the young Dr. was not yet much of a botanist, and depended more on the vulgar name than on the botanical one, I asked him where he had got the Podophyllum. He said there was a plenty of it in his uncle's garden, which I knew to be the Passiflora. He stated, it is true, that the root had had the desired effect, but could scarcely be made to believe me when I assured him that he had used quite a different plant, which for aught he knew, might have killed his patient. Comments on this are unnecessary.

There is, however a difficulty of a different kind to the more general use of botanical names, one which has caused many a learner to abandon the study of botany in disgust, and that is the great propensity which some botanists, too many of them, have of unnecessarily substituting new names to plants well known by their old ones. I shall take here the liberty of mentioning one instance of this.

It was with great pleasure that I saw in the 3d number of the Register so honorable a mention of my old favorite, "the Cantua Coronopifolia" of Wild. the "Ipomopsis elegans" of Mich. This is a plant which I have cultivated near 30 years, and have sent seeds of it many years ago to the North, to England, carried some to the Jardin des Plantes at Paris, sent some to Geneva, &c. &c., so that if it has but of late years come to notice again, it may have been by my agency.—If I was pleased with the notice of the Cantua in the 3d number, I was somewhat otherwise when I saw in subsequent numbers that its name has been changed to "Gilia," to which genus it is said it was properly joined. It may have been perfectly proper to do so, but I think that it would also be proper to give satisfactory reasons for the change. Is the genus Gilia older than the genus Cantua or Ipomopsis? or is the botanist who made the change so very superior in his merits as a cultivator of the science of botany than Willdenow, Michaux and many other respectable and meritorious botanists who have hitherto been satisfied with the names Cantua or Ipomopsis? If you can sir, or any of your correspondents give me sufficiently good reasons for the change, I shall willingly submit, but during 50 years or upwards that I have meddled with the knowledge of plants, I have had to learn and unlearn so often, that it is not now so easy or pleasing a matter to me. N. H.

Note by the Editors.—We have long desired to see an article impressing on the public mind the necessity of a botanical education, being more strictly enforced on the medical profession, nor do we think it can be more happily illustrated than by facts such as narrated in the above communication of our valuable correspondent.

Botany is not, as formerly, the mere ability of classing and naming a plant, it is now a knowledge of the structure and properties of vegetables, tending chiefly to one point, viz. their uses and value for the benefit of mankind, although many stop satisfied alone with their beauty. If a perfect knowledge of the structure of the human frame be requisite, surely an equal knowledge of what is to act on this frame is not less important in a medical education. One very beneficial result would be the appropriation to the profession and the consequent handling by well educated and responsible persons of most of the medicines now dispensed by those technically called quacks, who must have gained the original knowledge of the beneficial qualities of necessary quantities of their vegetable nostrums, at the expense, perhaps I might add with the sacrifice, of those credulous persons on

whom they first operated. The French, have of late years done very great things in this way by analysing and extracting the various properties of plants in known crystalline combinations; to their persevering industry and intelligence the world is much indebted on this subject.

With regard to the second point touched on by our correspondent, we would observe, that we frequently omit scientific details, for fear of rendering this periodical too dry or uninteresting to the general reader, yet we shall be always most happy, *when called on*, to offer such explanations on Botanical subjects as our abilities permit.

Gilia was a name given by Ruiz and Pavon in their Genera plantarum fl. Peru et Chile, page 25, tab. 4, published last Century, in honor of Signor Gil, author of Phytological Observations on Exotic Plants cultivated near Rome. After careful examination of the Ipomopsis of Michaux and the Cantua of Willdenow, Jussieu thought they belonged to the same species and proposed to unite them under the name of Gilia; Prof. Hooker of Glasgow in acceding to this, observes that perhaps in true Gilia the stamens will be found to be inserted in axils of the segments of the Corolla, which is the case in Willdenow's Cantua, and also agrees with the dried specimen of Cantua aggregata of Pursh, now in possession of A. B. Lambert, Esq., which was gathered by Captain Lewis at Hungry Creek, in 1806.

Gilia is in the natural order Polemoniaceæ in the Monograph of this family by D. Don, Edin. Phil. Journal, 1822, and the following is the character — Calyx, a tribe with 5 divisions, membraneous — Corolla, funnel shaped, 5 divisions, divisions entire, often obovate — Stamens, inserted in the throat of the funnel, generally rising above it — Anthers oblong, erect — The division of the Capsule, several seeded — Seeds angular, Embryo, shorter than the cotyledon—Leaves generally alternate, pinnatifid — flowers with stalks, generally fascicled — Stigma, three parted.

With the alteration of names Botany is perhaps much less troubled than many other sciences. Lamarck has changed the nomenclature of shells. Mineralogy, Geology and Chemistry, are notorious for their unsettled names and systems, but in Botany there are at present so many extraordinarily gifted laborers that each one is timid in changing an established name without sufficient grounds, yet there is so much still to learn, that some alterations have yet to be expected, particularly in plants of tropical and lately traversed regions, of which the seed vessels and seed, are comparatively difficult of access for examination.

J. E. T.

SELECTION OF FLOWERS FOR THE PLEASURE GARDEN.

[Continued from our last number.]

Campanula glomerata, micrantha, pulchella, lauri, ruthenica, pyramidalis, blue and white, punctata-erinus. Most of these are perennial flowers and consequently do not blossom the first year—*erinus* however is annual and a most delightful plant, of humble yet elegant growth, with simple blue flowers—*punctata* is a large flower, not a very pure white, but the inside is dotted with beautiful crimson spots —*pyramidalis* when well grown in pots, is the most shewy plant we know, we have seen them five feet high and three and a half feet wide, spread out on a frame, and so covered with flowers that scarcely a leaf or portion of the stem was visible ; to grow them in this perfection requires some skill, but their beauty and durability amply repay the trouble ; they require rich soil, much moisture, and some shade — glomerata, is very handsome with its dark blue dense heads of flowers ; in fact most of this tribe are worth cultivation — *hederacea,* a native of wet places in Europe is a great favorite with us, this is now called *wahlenbergia,* the tribe campanulaceæ having been newly modelled and properly divided.

Stevia, serrata, rosea, and purpurea. These neat little flowers will always be agreeable from their pleasant vanilla-like fragrance.

Lobelia, erinoides, and gracilis. The former perennial, the latter annual, a pretty dark blue flower of humble growth, a native of New South Wales, very suitable for the front of the flower bed or for ornamenting rock work until the perennials have spread.

Silene, of eight varieties, we can only recommend *vespertina,* and this we believe is already well known here.

Mimulus, guttatus, simshii, luteus and others. These are exceedingly interesting to cultivate, they vary so much, or sport as the florists term it, they require some care and attentionthe — seed must be very lightly covered. We can refer in confirmation of their beauty to a box exhibited at the Mass. Hort. Soc. rooms, 28th Sept. containing 12 varieties raised by Mr Jos. Breck, of Lancaster.

Potentilla, formosa and atropurpurea—natives of Nipaul ; these flower nearly the whole summer and are very ornamental, the first is a light bright rose color, the latter a dark red — a hybrid called Russelliana, of a fine scarlet, is also very shewy.

Galinsogea trilobata, a small yellow flower of the composite, of no pretensions to beauty.

Verbena aubletia and venosa, very pretty and desirable, remaining in blossom until the frost; these are neat growing plants, and never grow straggling and unsightly like many others, from whose beauty this fault is a great drawback.

Calandrinia, grandiflora and others. This is a beautiful and shewy tribe, flowers large, open, of a rosy purple; it has however one fault, it only opens fairly in sunshine, and closes soon; there is very little difference between this and

Talinum, of which we only cultivated *Ciliatum*, a native of the Southern States, a small flower of the brightest amethystine hue, but only disclosing its beauties for a few hours during sunshine—it is of the same family as the common Purslane which is such a troublesome weed in many gardens.

Madia splendens, a handsome, yellow, annual flower with dark spots in the centre, and agreeable fragrance; this is a late introduction into the garden, where it certainly merits room; it is one of the Compositæ tribe, syngenesia of Linnæus; it does not seed freely, only the flowers of the ray appearing fruitful; it stands the early frosts, and the only objection to it is that it fades in the sun, and almost immediately after gathering; therefore is not suitable for bouquets.

Anthericum annuum, no ornament to the garden, but the stamens are curious.

Clarkia pulchella and elegans. The first has been known here some time and is a favorite with many. The other is a later introduction, and when grown in pots protected from the rough winds, it is a very shewy plant, but it is almost too brittle and tender for complete exposure.

Malope trifida and grandiflora. The first is a pretty flower, but is completely eclipsed by the size, color, and beautiful satiny polish of the blossom of *grandiflora;* there is no trouble in the cultivation; it begins to flower early in the summer, and lasts until destroyed by the frost, of which it will stand a considerable degree; it is one of the mallow tribe.

Argemone Barclayana and grandiflora. Plants of the poppy tribe, although to the mere casual observer offering not much resemblance; we admire both very much; *Barclayana* is yellow, *grandiflora*, white, and rather larger; one great beauty in this flower is the bright amethystine color of the top of the seed vessel, (pistillum) which it retains for some hours after its opening; when well grown, we have no hesitation in admitting these amongst the ornaments of the garden,

although accustomed to see it covering every rubbish place near the towns in Cuba.

Nicotiana nana and repanda. There are two varieties of the Tobacco plant which we do not object to as garden decorations if their odor be not too closely inquired into. *Nana* (dwarf) has a large spreading, fine white flower opening in the dusk of the evening, when the departing light sheds a lustre on its color; *repanda* is the species cultivated in Cuba for the finest quality of Cigars; it is of much more lofty and elegant growth than *nana*, the flower is also white, but the back is tinged with a delicate purple, the leaf is undulated or wavy on the edges — we admire both very much.

Canna indica, red and yellow; this is pretty well known here, at least the red variety; we think the yellow when luxuriantly grown is handsome, it has red stripes on the yellow ground. The foliage alone of this plant makes it desirable in the parterre.

Anagallis indica, a bright blue flower covering the ground every morning with its fresh beauties; it is a lover of sunshine, and is about half the size of the *anagallis monelli*, well known here as an inmate of the greenhouse.

Iberis odorata and umbellata. Odorata is white, the foliage delicate and pretty; umbellata, the dark purple variety, is very shewy and bright, particularly when the rays of the setting sun are on it. Independent of its own beauty we always cultivate this flower for the sake of seeing the most beautiful color the vegetable kingdom offers, which is produced by placing the lighted end of a cigar under the petals, their color instantaneously changes to a brilliant green; this alteration is produced with many other flowers, but in none have we witnessed a color at all approaching to this.

Salvia angustifolia. In our account of Salvia in our last number we inadvertently omitted this beautiful variety, which is a native of dry mountainous situations in the cooler districts of Mexico; it requires a light soil and protection during the winter; although called only an annual, its existence may like many others be perpetuated by raising plants from cuttings which strike readily. The whole flower is a beautiful deep azure blue, the spikes tolerably dense, the lower lip broad and spreading, a plant of elegant growth; we regret much that owing to our not having any means of protection, a dozen of these charming plants must be destroyed.

Thunbergia alata. This is a beautiful climbing plant of a nankin color with a dark eye; we remember having seen this in the

stoves in England soon after its introduction and little dreamt of seeing it flourish in the open air; its shoots will not readily curl round a thick pole, but it will readily cover one about half an inch diameter, it prefers a sunny situation. In our last number we mentioned a new seedling variety of a white color. *T. grandiflora* has a larger flower of a bluish tinge, which we should think would do equally well out of doors. J. E. T.

[To be continued.]

EXTRACTS FROM FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS.

From a work on Africa and Australia just issued from the press in London, we extract the following lively account of the vegetation of Southern Africa, without, however, vouching for the correctness of all the names. When Linnæus was at work on his Botanical system, he received a large parcel of dried plants from Africa. In his reply he remarks, "You have conferred on me the greatest pleasure, but you have thrown my whole system into disorder."

"The vegetation of South Africa is unique, varied, and beautiful; at the Cape Peninsula in the spring of the year, the whole surface excepting the heaths, &c. is covered with the large Othonna (so like the daisy as to be distinguished only by a botanist,) springing up in myriads out of a verdant carpet, composed generally of the low creeping Trifolium melilotos, the Oxalis cerima and others of the same genus, varying through every tint of color from brilliant red, purple, violet, yellow, down to snowy whiteness; and the Hypoxis stellata,* or star flower, with its regular radiated corolla, some of golden yellow, some of a clear unsullied white, and others containing in each flower white and violet and deep green are equally numerous, and infinitely more beautiful. Barrow elegantly observes that whilst these are involving the petals of their showy flowrets at the setting sun, the modest Ixia cinnamonea (of which there are two varieties,) that has remained closed up in its brown calyx all day, now expands its small white blossoms, and scents the air throughout the night with its fra-

* Hypoxis erecta is rather common in our woods and pastures, it is a small bright yellow flower, the petals of which form an elegant star; it continues sending up spikes of flowers from the end of May until October, its lively appearance has gained it a place in our garden.

grant odor. The tribe of Ixias is extremely elegant and numerous, one species bearing a long upright spike of green flowers.* The Iris, Moræa, Antholiza, and Gladiolus, each furnish a great variety of species, not less beautiful than the Ixia. The Gladiolus (Africaner,) with its tall waving spike of striped, or of deep crimson flowers is uncommonly elegant. The Liliaceous class are exceedingly grand, particularly the Amaryllis. The sides of the hills are finely scented with the family of the Geraniums, exhibiting such variety of foliage that it has been supposed this tribe of plants might imitate, in their leaves, every genus in the vegetable world. The ericas (heaths) have long been acknowledged to be pre-eminent in variety and beauty at the Cape, and flourish equally on stony hills, or sandy plains. That species called the Physodes, with its clusters of white glazed flowers, exhibiting in the sunshine a very beautiful appearance, is peculiar to the swampy crevices of lofty mountains, as is also a tall, elegant fruitescent plant, the Cennæa mucronata. Little inferior to the ericas are the several species of the generas of Polygala, Brunia, Diosma, Borbonia, Cliffortia, &c., and which it would be beyond my limits even to enumerate. Nowhere, in fact, can the botanist find a richer, and more delightful field for his interesting pursuits than in Southern Africa, and its adjacent coasts. An endless variety of fruitescent, or shrubby plants grow in wild luxuriance, some on the hills, some in the deep chasms in the mountains, and others on the sandy isthmus of the Cape; but it is singular that of the numerous Protea indiscriminately produced on almost every hill on the colony, the Protea argentea is confined to the feet of the Table Mountain, and has not been found in any other part of the world. This beautiful shrub has been aptly termed the silver tree, its rich foliage being of a lustrous satin, with a soft texture, as if wove with a pillowy down, offering a deep contrast to the dark foliage of the surrounding oak, and the still deeper hue of the stone pine. The Conocarpa (Kreupelbroom of the Dutch) grow along the sides of the hills; the bark, is employed for tanning leather, and the branches for firewood. The Grandiflora speciosa, [Query, Ed.] and mellifera grow everywhere in wild luxnriance, as do also the large kinds of Ericas, Phyllicas, Brunias, Polygalas, Olea capensis, Euclea racemosa, Sophora, and many other arboraceous plants. The Palma Christi (castor-oil plants,) and the Aloe are met

* Ixia viridflora, mentioned in one of our preceding numbers as a desirable flower to introduce into this country.

with every where in great plenty. The dwarf mulberry flourishes, and the Myrica cerifera* (from the berries of which a firm and pure wax is procured by simple boiling,) is wild in abundance on the heathy sides of the hills. Avenues of oak (Durmast) trees and plantations of the white poplar, stone pine, &c. are to be seen near most of the country houses. The most valuable trees at the Cape are the Stink wood, a species of Quercus, (oak,) peculiar to South Africa, and the Geel hout, or yellow wood (Taxus elongatus, Linnæus,) both of which are excellently adapted for building, furniture, and all domestic purposes. They generally attain a height of fifty feet, with a diameter of ten. In the eastern districts, there are various species of the euphorbia, strelitzia, crassula, aloe, briony, beautiful scarlet cotelydons, jessamines, &c. In the neighborhood of Graham's Town, where the climate is probably one of the finest in the world, the coralodendron grows as tall as the stately oak, and in the spring produces great clusters of deep scarlet flowers from a dark velvet calyx; it is hardly possible to imagine the brilliance and beauty of its appearance, the whole of its branches being covered with blossoms. The Strelitzia regina produces flowers in the greatest profusion. What we consider beautiful specimens of geranium, are here treated as garden weeds, and rooted out to make room for more favorite plants, but the colonists often form the garden hedges of the ivy leafed geranium. The Karoo desert is chiefly covered with varieties of mesembryanthemum, crassula, stapelia, and euphorbia, with tufts or bunches of wiry grass, expanding extensively after rain. Several species of the indigofera, (indigo plant,) grow wild; the cactus (on which the Cochineal insect feeds) thrives; various species of the Gossypium (cotton plant) flourish in the eastern parts of South Africa, and of several varieties; the tea plant, a hardy shrub, which when once planted is not easily eradicated, has long been in the country, the soil, climate, and face of which bears so strong an analogy to Fokien and the other tea provinces of China, that it is singular no attention has yet been paid to the subject; flax yields two crops in the year, and the tobacco plant is large and of a fine odor. Hemp, tobacco, opium, cotton, silk and even tea may one day become extensive articles of export from South Africa. Of fruits there is every possible variety belonging to the tropical and temperate zones — oranges, lemons, citrons, (several

* Myrica cerifera is in plenty on our hills, but to manufacture wax from it is too expensive.

kinds) figs, guavas, grapes, melons, pomegranates, shaddock, quinces, jambos, loquats, peaches, nectarines, pears, apples, plums, mulberries, raspberries, strawberries, gooseberries, &c. almonds, walnuts, hazlenuts are all large and of excellent flavor. There are a great variety of grapes grown at the Cape, and equal to those of any part of the world; a large white Persian grape (haenapod or cocksfoot) yields a delicious but expensive wine, but the grape being fleshy is generally planted for the purpose of being converted into raisins. The vine is generally planted at the Cope of Good Hope as I have observed it in Normandy, that is, in rows like gooseberry bushes; — at some vineyards such as Constantia, the vine is supported on frames raised a few feet above the earth, or on lofty trellises along which it spreads in luxuriant richness. On an acre of ground may be planted (after the gooseberry fashion) 5,000 vines which will yield five leaguers or pipes (760 gallons of wine,) the average wholesale price of the leaguer being eighty shillings."

PAXTON'S HORTICULTURAL REGISTER, *Edited by* JAMES MAIN, for September, 1835. This is again a most interesting number, from which we shall therefore make rather copious extracts.

There is a sensible paper on Mr Mearn's practice of coiling the vine. "Considering coiling only as a new method of propagating the vine, it deserves commendation, entirely on the principle of its causing the production of a greater birth of radicles than either common layers or cuttings make in the first year, though it is notorious that layers of this year may be so treated as to bear plentifully in the next. Still the plan by which the greatest number of roots can be prompted into action from a young plant intended to be afterwards confined to a limited space, and fruit expected from it in a short time, must be preferable to another which promises no fruit until a sufficient force of roots be formed.

"It is understood that several practical men have tried coiling without success. This perhaps has happened in consequence of the essayist expecting more from the scheme than can be reasonably expected. If the coils were too short, or imperfectly ripened before they were severed from the parent tree, or if forced too early and too rapidly, no success could follow such attempts; and therefore it is not quite candid to scout the idea merely from the failure of a first trial; for although coiling is never likely to become a standard practice in the routine of gardening, yet under some circumstances and in some situations it may be a useful auxiliary expedient."

Having mentioned the Campanula pyramidalis in our article on the *selection of flowers for the pleasure garden*, the succeeding extract on its cultivation is very opportune, the variation necessary to adapt it to this climate will probably be, to grow them in large pots that they may be protected during winter in the cellar, and to place them in a shady situation, taking care always to keep them moist with liquid manure. We have raised several seedling plants this summer both of the white and the blue, on which we intended to try different experiments of culture, having grown them very successfully in Europe, but always from cuttings by which the long process of seedlings is somewhat curtailed ; we do not however remember them more than six and a half or seven feet high, yet this makes a most magnificent show. If they are once seen here in perfection they will certainly become more common, and be more saleable than the Hydrangea.

" About the beginning or middle of May sow the seeds on a light soil in a warm situation under a hand glass. Cover them about a quarter of an inch deep. After the plants appear above the soil they should have air, increasing it as the plants get strength, never allowing the plants to get dry or they will make but little progress. When they get about one inch high they should be planted in a bed prepared beforehand; the soil of this bed should be thrown out to the depth of one foot, and on the bottom lay a few inches thick of good rotten dung, filling up with rich light soil.

" In pricking out the plants, care must be taken not to break or damage the roots if possible. When they are planted about an inch of dung should be spread over the surface amongst the plants to retain moisture. An east or west aspect is better than north or south. If the weather prove dry, the plants should be regularly supplied with manure water. By autumn they will have made great progress and be strong plants. Through the winter they should be protected from severe frosts, by having a little loose hay or straw laid over them, but not so heavy as to break the leaves of the plants.

" In March following the plants should be examined ; if any have the appearance of throwing up a flowering stem, the plant should be carefully lifted, and the flower stem cut off, in the same manner as in cutting sea-kale, leaving a few buds to each crown. The lifting of the plant is to retard its growth ; for if cut over and not removed it would quickly shoot forth more flowering stems to the great hurt of the plant. If the weather be dry the plant should get a regular supply of dung-water at least three times a week, for it is only by supplying

them liberally with manure in a liquid state that we can expect much success. The plants by autumn will be very strong and will require a little more care in protecting through the winter. After the plants have done growing in October the ground should be covered to the depth of three or four inches with saw-dust or coal ashes, but not so deep as to cover the point of the shoots. In the third year before they begin to grow they ought to be taken to the flower garden, with their balls and roots as entire as possible and either planted in beds prepared for their reception or singly. They should be planted in rich earth in a warm situation where they will have the benefit of pure air; a few may be put in pots for ornamenting the greenhouse. As the plants advance in growth they should be supported by stakes. It may seem incredible to some of your readers to be informed, that the plants treated in the manner above described will grow to the height of between eight and nine feet covered with a profusion of bloom to within a foot of the ground. The plants being supplied with dung-water causes them to grow so luxuriant as to throw out a great quantity of side shoots, and these also throw out others which in their turn flower, and cause the plants to have a splendid appearance at that season of the year, when most of the flowers that bloom late in autumn are of a yellow color.

"I have grown plants with the above treatment producing upwards of forty shoots, all in flower at one time, with a centre shoot eight and a half feet high. After the plants have flowered they may be destroyed, for they will not be found worth bestowing any trouble on; indeed most of the plants will die.

"Gardeners in general cultivate this plant under a wrong idea, that is, if any dung be added to the soil, it is certain death to the plant. Now this is the result of giving ear to persons who have never put this plan into practice. This theory has been handed down from father to son, and from master to man since the days of Gerarde."

In an article on the question *whether the publication of the successful or unsuccessful practice of Gardening contributes most to the improvement of practical readers*, are some observations, on gardening periodicals, which certainly not only in England but in other European countries have mainly contributed to increase the taste for horticulture, and consequently the happiness of thousands.

"Gardening has been less subject to be disfigured by erroneous or irrelevant writings than its sister art (Agriculture) not only because it is an employment more definite in execution, but also because its

professors are never on an equality among themselves, it is less invaded by amateur scribblers, and its practical excellences or defects more universally known. This happens in consequence of the fraternal intercourse of gardeners with each other, from the custom of juniors passing from one celebrated place to another in pursuit of their business, and from their general character as reading men.

"This character gardeners have long enjoyed; and since gardening periodicals have been set going by the indefatigable Mr Loudon, literary gardeners and gardening have very much increased. That such periodicals are serviceable to mankind is undeniable, and though their contents are neither always new, nor excellent, yet among other things they go far to answer the question at the head of these remarks, not indeed by the insertion of voluntary admissions of failures in practice by unsuccessful practitioners themselves, but by the criticism of neighbors and tourists, whose communications if candidly and courteously written for the sake of professional truth are sure to find a place in those periodicals.

"Criticism on what is done or omitted to be done by others has often a snarling carping kind of aspect, and too frequently gives offence to the parties whose places are pointed at, more especially in matter of taste. In this affair every man has what he calls his own (taste) and should certainly be allowed to enjoy it undisturbed, provided he does not impose it on others, or trumpet it forth as the acme of perfection. Censure on the want of space or of high keeping in gardens, is much oftener caused by want of means than by want of either taste or propriety. Such circumstances are not legitimate objects of criticism; but on principles of practice, or of their right or wrong application, every one may exercise his own judgment, and freely canvass men and measures, as may appear to him necessary for banishing error or for the maintenance of truth.

"This gives periodical publications whether on arts or sciences an inquisitorial character, and while they are kept pure from low abuse and frivolous petulance, raises them in the estimation of readers into a kind of tribunal to which all will cheerfully pay a due deference. Viewed in this light periodical publications have a peculiar value.

"Any error which may creep into one number is sure to be corrected in the next or some following one: and as refutation must be accompanied with some discussion pro and con, facts are elicited or ideas broached which but for the first mistake or misstatement would have perhaps laid dormant forever."

On the Black Lisbon Grape, by W. Bristol, gardener to Charles Huit, Esq. "I have frequently felt sorry on going into most hot houses to see the bunches of this grape so deficient — to find here and there a good full sized berry and all the others small and good for nothing, or missing altogether. I have for a number of years practised the following plan, and always found it to answer well, the bunches when attended to as stated below have invariably been equal in size and perfect.

"When the trees are in flower take a bunch of any of the black sort and dash it against the Lisbon, so as to impregnate it. The consequence is that this grape will by my plan set and be as perfect in its bunches as any other sort."

This is of course applicable to every other species of grape which is difficult in setting its fruit.—Ed.

There is an excellent paper on the cultivation of the mushroom which is hardly of sufficient interest here to extract from.

A letter on Landscape gardening, describing the owner's park and grounds is amusing and instructive, we may perhaps, give part of it in a succeeding number.

A communication on the *Love of Flowers* is very well written, but bears rather hard on the mere cultivator of florists' flowers.

"This refinement in flower-craft never disturbs the general lover of flowers. He has his beds of tulips, hyacinths, ranunculuses, &c. and from every individual contained in his collection he derives unalloyed pleasure. He is not tortured by that fastidiousness of *propension* (for taste it cannot be called) which will make him turn away disgusted from a beautiful tulip, merely because it is a somewhat foul *bizarre*, or an imperfect *bybloemen*. Whether a hyacinth be single or double, whether with a plain or a colored eye, if it be a well grown stately flower it meets his approbation. Nor is his regard confined to the narrow limits of the arch-florist; he bestows attention on every bud that blows, whether the early germs of spring, the ample blossoms of summer or the parting glories of autumn. * * * *

"Unluckily for the exclusive notions of the thorough bred florists many of their exquisites are monstrous, and as far removed from the simple elegance of nature as art and a vitiated fancy can make them."

There is much truth in the above extracts, yet the labors of the florist are not to be altogether despised, nor is he to be dismissed with so much contempt; without his labors, where would have been the magnificent collection of Dahlias which have recently attracted, and

will always continue to attract such crowds of admirers? where the beautiful camellias, from which even the botanist cannot withhold his tribute of admiration. Why may not flowers as well as fruits be improved by cultivation? it is certain that florists' flowers are sometimes, particularly in the eye of the botanist, distortions, but this is not always the case. He is wise who does not contemn the pursuits which afford pleasure to others although not exactly in his own taste. The astronomer, the geologist, the historian, the botanist, are each too apt to set the highest value on the subject of his own study, and the diminution of this feeling is one of the most prominent uses of the stated meetings of scientific men so lately introduced, and with such happy effect in Europe.—Ed.

Smith's Florists' Magazine.—This is a new publication, the first number of which was issued last July, and is designed expressly to meet the taste which is so much increasing for florists' flowers. The August number contains excellent figures of *Rose tourterelle*, the Turtle dove rose, and the Celestial rose, the Duke of Southerland Dahlia, the Pandora tulip, the Duke of Devonshire and Queen of Sheba carnations. It professes in process of time to give figures of all the first rate florists' flowers cultivated, with full descriptions, and directions for treatment and cultivation. We wish it success, and shall not fail occasionally to transfer portions of the information it contains into our pages.

From an account of the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, August 4, 1835, we gather the following novelty from Ceylon.

"Among the great number of trees producing fruits, nutritive and medicinal, oils, resins, flowers, fibres for cordage, &c. &c., there is one called the *Steam tree*, from the roots of which when cut steam issues.

"The trees of Ceylon are also enumerated, and are equally various for color of the wood, weight or lightness, durability, fitness for house and ship building, carpentry, furniture, ornament or other uses."

Curtis's Botanical Magazine, by Dr. W. J. Hooker, for September, contains colored figures and description of

Crescentia ayete, Calabash tree, Didynamia angiospermia and bignoniaceæ, a magnificent West India plant, which flowered in the stove of C. Horsfall, Esq., Liverpool. It is quite common in the

tropics; and the shell of its fruit is used for all sorts of domestic utensils, it being sufficiently hard to bear fire enough to boil water contained in it several times before it is destroyed. It is a tree above twenty feet in height, readily distinguished from all others, by its peculiar habits, sending forth large, horizontal, scarcely divided branches, which bear fascicles of leaves at various distances.

Pæonia Russi, Crimson Pæony, Polyandria digynia and ranunculaceæ. A beautiful single flower, differing much in foliage from P. tenuifolia; the numerous yellow stamens, and stigmas are very handsome.

Cratægus Coccinea — Large flowered American Whitethorn, — Icosandria di-Pentagynia and Rosacea, another of our beautiful native plants, adorning the pages of this valuable London periodical, in which it is remarked that "This is an extremely beautiful plant, and assuredly one of the greatest ornaments of our shrubberies, loaded as it is in the month of May with its large clusters of white, but scarcely fragrant blossoms. The leaves too are copious, and of a delicate yellowish green, much lobed and finely serrated at the margin. It is a native of North America, from Canada to the Southern United States." It grows in a variety of places near Boston.

Vaccinium corymbosum and Pennsylvanicum, — Decandria monogynia and vacciniæ. These are the whortleberries so common in this neighborhood, which are cultivated in the gardens in Europe with much assiduity. This tribe wants the supervision of some able botanist on the spot where they naturally grow, many mere varieties would no doubt be differently arranged.

Cassia glandulosa, Glandular leaved Cassia, — Decandria monogynia and leguminosæ, one of the most elegant of this tribe — the leaves are numerously pinnated, having 12 to 18 pairs of leaflets, the flowers arising from the base of the general stem. A West India plant, therefore an inmate of the greenhouse.

Sida inæqualis, oblique leaved Sida. Monadelphia polyandria and malvaceæ, a beautiful, campanulated, (bell shaped) flower, two inches across when fully expanded; the leaves of a most beautiful green — we are sorry to add that it is necessarily an inhabitant of the stove, being probably from the Brazils; it flowered in the Botanic Garden at Edinburgh, last May.

The first number of the Companion to the Botanical Magazine, also by Dr Hooker, was published on the first of September. It contains three plates with a variety of most interesting information; we

make some considerable extracts to shew in what estimation American botanists and botany are held in Europe.

"If ever there was a period when more than at any other, a JOURNAL was required which might give an account of the progress of Botanical science, it is surely the present, when thanks to the blessings of a long continued and almost universal peace, there is scarcely a part of the world of any extent which has not lately been the field of some botanical discoveries.

" North America, especially the United States, bids fair to have its Botanical riches as well known and as faithfully described as many parts of Europe, and we are happy to be able to announce that our valued friend, Dr Torrey is preparing a *Synopsis of North American Plants*, arranged according to the natural method. It is a work that has long been called for, and it is fortunate for science that the execution has fallen into such able hands. In this laborious employment Dr Asa Gray lends his valuable assistance.

" Mr Nuttall, who, though he appears to have resigned the Botanical chair in the university of Harvard College, seems to be as ardently devoted to Natural History, and particularly Botany as ever. In the transactions of the American Philosophical Society he has commenced his *collections towards a Flora of the Territory of Arkansas*, arranged according to the natural orders. This memoir will prove extremely interesting to the subscribers to Mr Drummond's collections, since many of them, especially from the interior of Texas, prove identical with Nuttall's discoveries in Arkansas, two countries not very remote from each other.

" It is observed by Mr Nuttall, of the superb *Cyamus luteus* (*Nelumbium luteum*, Will.) that the Osages and other western natives, employ the roots of this plant, which is of common occurrence for food, preparing them by boiling. In form, the tubers resemble those of the Batata, sweet potato, and are traversed internally by five to eight longitudinal cavities. They are found at the depth of twelve to eighteen inches beneath the surface of the earth, and are connected by means of running roots. The tubers arrive at maturity about the time the seeds begin to ripen, before that time they abound with a milky juice in common with the whole plant. When fully ripe, after considerable boiling, they become as farinaceous, agreeable and wholesome a diet as the potato. Two other valuable papers on American botany are given by Mr Nuttall, in the 7th vol. of the Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences, of Philadelphia; the

first entitled, a catalogue of a collection of plants, made chiefly in the Rocky Mountains or Northern Andes, towards the sources of the Columbia river, by Mr N. B. Wyeth. The collection, Mr Nutall informs us, was made wholly on the returning route of this gentleman from the falls of the Columbia to the first navigable waters of the Missouri; when pursuing the remainder of his route down the rapid current of that river, scarcely any further opportunity occurred of adding to the Herbarium. The number of the species, and their interest to the Botanist, will therefore be duly appreciated when it is known that this was the first essay of the kind ever made by Mr Wyeth; and yet I can safely say that besides their number (there being many duplicates) they are the finest specimens probably that ever were brought from the distant perilous regions of the West by any American traveller. This collection is indeed an extremely important one, amounting to one hundred species, the majority of which are described as new; many of them however, will necessarily be found identical with the discoveries of Mr Drummond, and more particularly of Mr Douglas, in the same district of country. Perfect flowering specimens were obtained of *Lewisia rediviva*, and a figure given of it; but it is deeply to be regretted without any analysis of the parts of fructification; for it is made to constitute a new order of plants under the Flathead Indian name of SPALTHALUMEÆ the root being the *Spæthum* of the *Sailish* or Flathead Indians.

"It is probably the highly interesting character of the collection from the Rocky mountains that has induced Mr Nutall himself to join an exploring party, and cross the continent of North America to the shores of the Pacific on the south side of the Columbia river, than which a more interesting journey can scarcely be imagined. Of the particulars of the route, and the nature and success of the expedition he accompanied, I have been unable to learn any particulars, further than that a vessel sent round to meet them with stores, &c. had not arrived, on which account the party had suffered much inconvenience.

"The second paper of Mr Nuttall in the Journal of the Academy of Natural Science, of Philadelphia, just alluded to, is *a description of some of the rarer or little known plants indigenous to the United States, from the dried specimens in the Herbarium of that Academy*. These are chiefly from the Southern States, and consist of eighty-three species, nearly the whole of which were previously undescribed; several of these are however likewise in Mr Drummond's collections and more may be expected from that indefatigable naturalist during

his journeying in Eastern Florida. In our last mention of Mr Drummond we spoke of his having left New Orleans for Texas, hitherto almost untrodden by the Botanist.

"No wonder therefore it had attractions for Mr Drummond, which were perhaps increased by the circumstance of a small collection of plants falling into his hands which were gathered in that country by M. Berlandier, and which at once shewed how different in general was the vegetation from that of the United States. The particulars of his stay in Texas will be given in the introductory notice to the remarks we shall have to offer on the plants themselves; suffice it to say at present, that he has sent at three separate periods several chests of dried plants, of which the last and by far the most interesting arrival, still remains to be distributed; and that he has besides enriched our gardens with seeds and roots of several new, or little known plants; among them are five species of *Cactus*, some handsome species of *Phlox*, a most remarkable new cruciferous plant, allied to the beautiful *Streptanthus*, and two kinds of *Pentstemon*, which I think may be reckoned by very far the handsomest of this very handsome genus, of these one had been previously discovered by Mr Nuttall on the Red River, and called by that gentleman on account of the great size and general appearance of the flower *P. cobea*, the other and more beautiful one appears to be quite new. On his return to New Orleans on the latter end of 1834, Mr Drummond immediately prepared for an expedition to Florida, and sailed for Apalachicola which he reached in January last; there he collected two boxes of specimens which have reached Europe, when finding from the peculiar nature of the country, surrounded by a widely extended waste of sand in almost every direction that it was scarcely possible to reach the southern extremity of Florida except by the very circuitous route of Havana; he embarked for Cuba on the first of February, and intended from thence to reach Key West, so as on proceeding northward to pass through the whole length of the southern peninsula of North America.*

"American Botany has sustained a great loss, and his adopted country a most invaluable member of society in the death of Dr

* We are sorry to be obliged to say that Mr Drummond died at Havana last March, thus adding another sacrifice to that of the unfortunate Mr Douglas to a zeal for a natural history; this is also noticed in the work from which these extracts are made

Schweinitz, of Bethlehem, Penn. so well known for his accurate investigation of the Fungi; he lately became the possessor of Dr Baldwin's extensive Herbarium of plants chiefly collected in the Southern States, and in South America, and had intended publishing some remarks upon them. His death was very sudden, and his collections have been bequeathed to the Academy of Sciences of Philadelphia, and is together with the other valuable Herbarium belonging to that Institution under the able charge of Dr Pickering.

" Dr Barratt, of Middleton, Mss. has undertaken the difficult task of describing the North American *Willows*, a task which perhaps no person is more competent. * * * * * *

" Many of the North American species are eminently deserving of cultivation on accoont of the beauty of their catkins and their foliage, particularly some of those from the North West Coast of America; and we confidently hope that Dr Gairdner who now resides at Fort Vancouver, and Mr Tolmie who is stationed in a most interesting spot, namely at Fort McLoughlin, in Millbank Sound, lat. 52° 5′ N. will enrich our collection with many novelties from that rich botanical field.

" There is also an account of the Botanical expedition of Mr Mathews to Peru. He says his collection in plants, animals, insects, and shells is considerable — the result of it has been in Botany alone a collection of ten thousand specimens including nine hundred species. Of these nearly one half has arrived in England. They are all in beautiful condition, numbered and accompanied by a list of stations where gathered, and cannot fail to give the greatest satisfaction to the friends of Mr Mathews, and to reflect the highest credit on Mr Mathews himself. The part arrived is rich in *compositæ* (many of great beauty.) *Melastomaceæ*, of which he has gathered nearly fifty kinds, there are several Andromedas, Fuchsias, Rubiaceæ, two Proteas, several Laurus, Weinmannias, Befairias, &c. &c. We are happy to add, that the remainder are known to be on their way and daily looked for.

" In the notice concerning Mr Drummond's journey is the following passage, from Velasco, mouth of the Rio Brazos, Texas.

" Among the plants are several which I would particularly recommend as deserving of notice for their beauty; two are species of *Coreopsis*, one with flowers twice as large as those of *C. tinctoria* and extremely handsome. There is also a syngenesious plants allied to Rudbeckia (probably *Galardia bicolar*, var.) the blossoms are copper

colored, the whole rises to about a foot high, and covers a diameter of three or four feet, I may safely say that I have seen more than a hundred flowers open on it at the same time.

"Also a fine procumbent *Œnothera* much like *Œ. macrocarpa*, and a charming *Ixia* of which I send roots."

Another passage will give some idea of the hardships he went through.

"Of the genera *Pentstemon* and *Sabbatia* which are numerous and beautiful, I send many specimens, and also of a lovely *Rudbeckia* which is a great ornament to the prairies here. I could ask a thousand questions about my plants, for I am shut out from all information; though Pursh's American Flora is among my luggage I can hardly get a sight of it. You may form an idea of the difficulties I have to encounter in this miserable country (more miserable however as to its inhabitants than in any other respect,) when I tell you that all the bird skins I sent you were removed (from the animal) with a common old penknife, not worth two cents, and that even this shabby article I could not have kept had the natives seen anything to covet in it; and that I am obliged to leave behind my blanket and the few clothes that I have brought, because of the difficulty of carrying them, though I feel pretty sure that I shall never see them again. These trifles I only mention to give you some idea of my present situation; they do not affect me much, except as preventing me from pursuing the objects of my journey with the success I could wish."

There are also accounts of excursions in the neighborhood of Quito, and towards the summit of the great Mountain Chimborazo in 1830, by Colonel Hall, of Quito.

Journal of an ascent to Adams Peak, in the Island of Ceylon, by Colonel and Mrs Walker.

Also an account of the vegetation of the Volcanic Mount Etna, by Dr R. A. Philippi, which contains much interesting information.

J. E. T.

IMPROVEMENTS IN DOMESTIC HORTICULTURE.

Broccoli. — We have seen in the market this excellent vegetable, grown at the Farm school on Thompson's Island, scarcely inferior in size and closeness of head to any raised in England.

Several Cauliflowers were of a good size, although rather too open. We think if this vegetable were grown in deep trenches like celery, but much deeper, so as to form a shade from the great heat of the sun, which draws them out too rapidly and opens the flower, they might succeed better. A rich, loamy soil is, however, necessary to grow them in perfection.

Onions. — We purchased a bushel, of Mr Baker in Dorchester, for eighty cents, which exceeded in size any we had previously seen; four selected weighed four pounds, tops cut off; the flavor when cooked was deliciously mild and bland. They were sown in the spring on a light soil, the seed trodden in hard. They succeed the potato onion admirably.

Green Peas are still gathered in many private gardens.

It would be a great service to the community, if the Horticultural Society would offer premiums of ten to fifty dollars for these improvements. It is not merely the amount of money, but the emulation it excites, and the publicity it gives to such exertions—all of which are animating and pleasing to the cultivator.

Pancratium Carolinianum. — Bulbs sent to us from a swamp in Kentucky, we flowered in great perfection in a pot in the open air. We have distributed all our bulbs among amateurs, not having a green-house to protect them during the winter.

A little more general interest in horticulture would introduce here many very beautiful plants from the South.

St Michael's Pear. — This old favorite and truly delicious fruit has been this year more generally exempt from the disease which had nearly annihilated it for a succession of years. It has consequently again been tasted in its former perfection. From our microscopic observations on this disease, which we acknowledge were not quite so numerous or so early made as we could have wished, it appears to us that it is a peculiar parasitical fungus or mould, which, settling and vegetating early on the skin of the pear, alters its nature and prevents its expanding as the fruit swells; and that the sporules or powdery seeds of this fungus remain in the crevices of the bark, or some other place, until the ensuing summer, when they again attack the fruit. The very great severity of the frosts last winter may have destroyed the vegetating power of these sporules, and thus nearly freed the fruit from it this season. Could this be verified, as finding out the disease is half the cure, means might be found to eradicate it, there being several applications injurious to fungi, and really this pear is so very

superior to many of the newly imported, that to rescue it from destruction is worth some trouble. For the information of those who are inclined to follow up this idea, I will add that Fries, who has spent many years in observations on fungi, says that the sporules are so small as to be scarcely visible to the naked eye, rising like thin smoke by the attraction of the sun and other means, or carried up by the evaporation of moisture, so that it is difficult to imagine a place from which they can be excluded.

The parasitical (that which lives on other bodies) species are, the dry rot, *Polyporus destructor*, *Merculius lacrymans* and *vastator*, the blight in corn, *Puccinia graminis*, the rust in corn is a variety of *Æcidium*, the smut and ergot and many others. Also, that it is a remarkable circumstance, which deserves more inquiry, that the growth of minute fungi is effectually prevented by any kind of perfume; that books in the neighborhood of others bound in Russia leather will never become mouldy, nor will any other substance if placed within the influence of any essential oil.

Is this Pear the same as that named in the French catalogues as the *Doyenné doré St Michel?* If so, fresh scions might be obtained from Europe free from this disease, and thus the species renewed.

J. E. T.

MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES.

COLLECTED BY T. G. F.

ORCHARDS. It is remarked in *Vancouver's Survey of Devonshire*, that "A very common practice prevails of foddering cattle during winter in orchards, when it can be done without injury to the young trees, dressing orchards at the same time and manner as is usual to manure mowing grounds is also found very much to increase their produce; but to cultivate orchards with potatoes is very much disapproved of, not only on account of the exhausting nature of that crop, but from its tillage, the ground becomes so much loosened, as frequently to expose the trees to be blown down by the winds.

Throughout the whole of the country, long exposure has shown, that the same fruit growing in a moist loam, or clay bottom, will produce a vastly superior cider to that growing on or under strata of sheer sand or gravel. An acclivity looking to the south east is the sit-

uation always preferred here for the culture of the apple tree. The size of the fruit is much kept up, on trees not fast verging to decay, by cutting off the suckers, opening the top by pruning away all the wild, dead and unprofitable branches, and dressing each tree annually at its root, with a compost of dung, lime, and way soil, in proportion of one team or horse load to two trees. The orchard thus invigorated and opened to the influence of the sun and air, the moss with which the branches of the trees had been clothed for many years fall off, and the improvement in the size, quantity and quality of the fruit is not less evident than the healthy and flourishing condition of the tree.

GARDENER'S WORK FOR NOVEMBER.

It is now quite time to attend to preserving the roots and such other products of your garden as still remain ungathered. Mr M'Mahon's method of preserving roots is as follows:

"Previous to the commencement of severe frost, you should take up, with as little injury as possible, the root of your turnips, carrots, parsnips, beets, salsify, scorzonera, Hamburg, or large-rooted parsley, skirrets, Jerusalem artichokes, turnip-rooted celery, and a sufficiency of horse-radish, for the winter consumption; cut off their tops, and expose the roots for a few hours, till sufficiently dry. On the surface of a very dry spot of ground, in a well sheltered situation, lay a stratum of sand two inches thick, and on this a layer of roots of either sort, covering them with another layer of sand, (the drier the better,) and so continue layer about of sand and roots till all are laid in, giving to the whole on every side, a roof-like slope; then cover the heap or ridge all over with about two inches of sand, over which lay a good coat of drawn straw, up and down as if thatching a house, in order to carry off water and prevent its entering the roof; then dig a wide trench round the heap, and cover the straw with the earth so dug up, to a depth sufficient to preserve the roots effectually from frost. An opening may be made on the south side of this heap, and completely covered with bundles of straw, so as to have access at all times to the roots, when wanted either for sale or use.

"Some people lay straw, or hay between the layers of roots, and

immediately on the top of them; this I do not approve of, as the straw or hay will become damp and mouldy, and very often occasion the roots to rot, while the sand would preserve them sweet and sound.

"All these roots may be preserved in like manner in a cellar; but in such a place they are subject to vegetate and become stringy earlier in spring. The only advantage of this method is, that in the cellar they may be had when wanted, more conveniently during winter than out of the field or garden heaps.

"NOTE.—All the above roots will preserve better in sand than in common earth; but when the former cannot be had, the sandiest earth you can procure may be made use of."

PRESERVE YOUR CABBAGES.—The principal gardener in the shaker establishment in New Lebanon, Columbia County, N. Y. directs not to pull up cabbages in autumn "till there is danger of their being too fast in the ground to be got up. If there happens an early snow it will not injure them. When they are removed from the garden, they should be set out again in the bottom of a cellar. If the cellar is pretty cool, it will be the better."

PRESERVE YOUR CELERY.—On the approach of frost take up a part of the crop, and lay it under sand for winter use. It may be packed in boxes in a warm cellar, leaving the tops and leaves open to the air, and used when wanted.

SOW CROPS FOR SPRING.—You may now sow the seeds of rhubarb, sea-kale, skirrets, parsnips and many other kinds, which are somewhat slow in vegetating, and they will come forward early and grow vigorously in the spring. In the fore part of this month you may manure and trench the ground which is intended for early crops, and, if it be of a stiff heavy nature, lay it up in ridges to receive the benefit of the winter frosts.

FRUIT GARDEN, ORCHARD AND NURSERY.—This is a good time as can be chosen for planting orchards. If the ground be dry and loamy, (which is the only soil proper for an orchard,) November is the month for planting the seeds of apples, pears, quinces, plums, cherries, peaches, nectarines, walnuts, chesnuts, filberts and indeed every kind of fruit trees, and forest trees. These seeds may be sown in drills, or broad-cast in a bed, and covered from an inch to two inches in depth, according to the lightness of the soil and the proportionate size of the stones. If they are covered lightly, the young plants will easily make their way through the soil, and when they appear above ground,

if in drills you can draw a little earth to their stems, and if in beds sift a little earth over them. A young orchard should not be planted in the place of, or adjacent to an old one, lest it be immediately infested with the curculio, and other insects which generally are injurious to old orchards, and are kept to colonize young trees in their vicinity.

Transplanting trees should be finished as early in November as possible, in order that plants may have time to push out new fibres before the frost sets in. If planted at a late period, they seldom put out fibres before spring, and the powers of vegetation, it is supposed are weakened by being suspended.

In the early part of this month it will be well to sift a little earth between and among plants so as nearly to come up to the leaves, which will be of use in every climate and country, to every sort of seedling, tree, or shrub, which in consequence of their small size the first year's growth are liable to be thrown out of the ground by frosts, or injured by drought.

Stake and tie up all newly planted trees, which are in open exposures, in order to prevent their being agitated by wind. Lay light litter of some kind, a good thickness, over the roots of tender and choice shrubs to protect them from frost.

MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Saturday, Oct. 10, 1835.

EXHIBITION OF FRUITS.

From Stephen Williams, Esq., Northborough, 3 varieties of apples and 1 of pears.

From Charles Bowen, pomme d'Api, lady-apple, and St Michael's pears.

From Judge Buel, Downton pippin, Rosinkruger, Pigeon rouge, Alexander, and King of the pippins, apples.

From Messrs Winship, Capiaumont and Croft Castle pears. [The Croft Castle is one of the new pears raised by Mr Knight, and scions distributed by Mr Lowell: as far as could be judged from a single specimen it will prove a fine fruit.]

From Charles French, Esq., of Braintree, sweet apples for baking.

From Dr S. A. Shurtleff, Urbaniste pears and 1 sort unnamed.

From Messrs Hovey, Heathcote and St Michael's pears.

From John Prince, Esq. Naumkeag pears.

From Hon. John Lowell, Tillington and Urbaniste pears.

From S. Philbrick, Urbaniste, Capiaumont, and Wilkinson pears.

From Madame Dix, large basket of Dix pears.

From M. P. Wilder, Van Mons pears.

From Mr John Clapp, of Reading, Platt's Bergamot, and Seckel pears, five sorts of apples, and one ear of Tuscarora corn.

From Mr Manning, Quetshe d'Italy, Imperial Violet, and Antwerp plums, Jalousie, Buffum, Urbaniste, Washington, Heathcote, green Yair, Rousselette de Rheims, and Belle Lucrative pears; Lyscom and Snow apples, and Seedling bloodpeach for preserves.

From Mr Israel Ames, Boston, a basket, containing beautiful specimens of black Hamburg and golden Chasselas grapes.

From Dr Robbins, of Roxbury, a basket of red apples, with red flesh, handsome and good.

For the Committee, ROBERT MANNING.

REPORT ON VEGETABLES.

Exhibited from Capt. Daniel Chandler, of Farm School, Thompson's Island, a Mangel Wurtzel, weighing 22 pounds.

The Committee on making their *first* report, as above, are encouraged to expect future exhibitions of the products of thekitchen garden; and would most respectfully solicit attention to this most important branch of Horticulture, which might be essentially advanced by competition. The Horticultural Society will be found an excellent medium through which any improvements, or new introductions, may be promulgated.

The committee are pleased to witness the improved sta e of things, and advancing interest manifested in the ornamental department of Horticulture. This is right, and as it should be. But while the floral garden is increasing in beauty and splendor, let not the kitchen garden be neglected. There is room for improvement.

All those who have Pumpkins, Squashes, Beets, Carrots, Parsnips, Turnips, Cabbages, &c., not forgetting the Cauliflower and other delicate vegetables, are invited to further the views of the committee.

GEO. C. BARRETT,
Chairman of the Committee
on the Products of the Kitchen Garden.

Saturday, Oct. 17.

EXHIBITION OF FRUITS.

From Hon. John Lowell, Downton and Capel pears.

James Eustis, South Reading, Kilham hill, Jelly flower and sweet russet apples.

Mr J. Lincoln, Hingham, Seek-no-further apples.

Mr J. P. Davis, Bergamot Sylvange pears from Philadelphia.

Mr J. M. Ives, Salem, Semiana plums, so called in Boston and vicinity.

John Prince, Esq., Urbaniste pears.

W. Oliver, Esq., Dorchester, Wilkinson pears.

Mr Jacob Dean, of Mansfield, a basket of fine apples.

Mr Cushing, St Michael and Bergamot Sylvange pears.

E. Vose, Esq., Orange Quinces, St Michael, Marie Louise, Tillington, Capiaumont, Urbaniste, Wilkinson, and Long Green pears.

Daniel Adams, Esq., of Newbury, large baking pears.

Mr Manning, Surpass Virgalieu, Bezi Montigny, Saunders' Beurre, and a seedling pear, raised by J. S. Cabot, Esq., of Salem.

Mr Hunt, of Brighton, pears from trees imported from France.

Messrs Winship, Brighton, Hybrid Walnuts, from trees raised from the Madeira Nut, or English Walnut, impregnated with the native Butternut. The following letter from Mr Winship, is published for the information of those who wish to propagate this truly valuable fruit.

Brighton, Oct. 17, 1835.

Gentlemen:—Herewith you have the fruit of a Hybrid Walnut, raised from the English, or Madeira Walnut, impregnated with the Butternut. The trees were presented to me by Gorham Parsons, Esq. It is a vigorous, strong growing tree, and endures our climate, without sustaining the least injury, in the most inclement winters. As we consider it a fine production, and a valuable acquisition in Horticulture, we should like to have it introduced to public notice, and will with pleasure supply any one with scions.

Respectfully yours, &c. JONA. WINSHIP.

To the Committee on Fruits.

Among so large a collection of fine pears, the Urbaniste, Surpass Virgalieu, Bergamot Sylvange, and Downton, deserve particular notice, as first rate fruits; the Downton is one of the new sorts produced from seed by Mr Knight; it more than realized our expectations, and was second to no pear exhibited to-day. For the Committee,

ROB'T MANNING.

FLOWERS.

The absence of severe frost and the extreme fine weather which has continued without intermission during the month of October, has unusually prolonged the weekly beautiful displays of flowers in the Horticultural Society's rooms. It would be tedious to our general readers to give a list of the various names of those exhibited, particularly as we are preparing an article for our next number in which this omission, if can be so called, will be properly supplied. The dahlias from Messrs M. P. Wilder, Sweetser, Walker, Carter, (of the Botanic Garden) Kenrick, and others, have been beyond description splendid, and we have no doubt, will encourage many to become cultivators of this magnificent *Florist's flower*, particularly when a *certain* method of insuring success in treatment of them, is made known by the press. We anticipate next year, at least five exhibitions for one this, and if the public call for an exhibition next season, and the Horticultural Society offer premiums, there is no question but Massachusetts may amicably challenge a display with any competitor. We cannot, however, pass over in silence, the beauty of other flowers of which bouquets have been exhibited by Messrs Winship, Kenrick, Walker, Hovey and others, and hail with delight the increasing interest this pursuit seems to attain in society. J. E. T.